

## Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 L-03 COA-02

SNM-02 BNDE-00 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 T-03 OMB-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 /106 W

----- 039220

R 131118 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1404

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 4042

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, BM

SUBJECT: VISIT OF BURMESE FOREIGN MINISTER FURTHERS RTG- GUB  
RAPPROCHEMENT

REF: BANGKOK 3182

1. SUMMARY: BURMESE FONMIN U KYAW SOE RECEIVED  
GENEROUS ACCESS TO SENIOR RTG OFFICIALS DURING MARCH  
9-12 VISIT. PRINCIPLE ISSUE RAISED BY BURMESE WAS, OF  
COURSE, U NU AND HIS FOLLOWERS. A GUB COMMITMENT NOT  
TO ALLOW ITS TERRITORY TO BE USED AS BASE FOR HOSTILE  
ACTS AGAINST THAILAND DID NOT ELICIT RECIPROCAL  
RESPONSE FROM RTG, BUT NEITHER SIDE EXPECTED IMMEDIATE  
RESULT. NET RESULT IS IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE. FUTURE  
PROGRESS DEPENDS ON RTG ACTIONS VIS- A- VIS U NU. END  
SUMMARY.

2. GUB FOREIGN MINISTER U KYAW SOE VISITED BANGKOK MARCH  
9-12. KYAW SOE AND PARTY WERE ACCORDED BROAD ACCESS TO  
RTG FIGURES INNCLUDING AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING, TWO  
DINNERS WITH PM THANOM, A MEETING WITH GENERAL PRAPHAT,  
AND A WEEKEND TRIP TO PATTAYA BEACH WITH A VISIT TO ACM  
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DAWEE'S PRIVATE ISLAND. GUB PARTY WAS ACCOMPANIED THROUGHOUT ITS STAY BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI, MFA DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY PHAN WANNAMETHEE, SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER ASA SARASIN, AND MFA SEA DESK OFFICER THEP DEVAKULA.

3. ASA DESCRIBED VISIT TO POL COUNSELOR AS " GREAT SUCCESS". BURMESE FIRST SECRETARY AUNG THANT TOLD EMBOFFS VISIT PAVED WAY FOR FUTURE PROGRESS.

4. ACCORDING TO AUNG THANT, FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN OF GUB DELEGATION WAS ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND OF U NU AND HIS MOVEMENT. IN ANSWER TO QUERY HE ALSO INCLUDED KARENS AS MATTER OF CONCERN. AUNG THANT SAID RTG RAISED FISHING RIGHTS, SMUGGLING, AND DEMARCATION OF BORDER BUT BURMESE CONSIDERED THESE OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE. RE BORDER DEMARCATION AUNG THANT SAID ONLY CONFUSION IS OVER WHERE CHANNEL HAS SHIFTED IN MAE SAI RIVER.

5. ASA TOLD POL COUNSELOR BURMESE " OBSESSED" WITH U NU. KYAW SOE GAVE COMMITMENT THAT GUB WILL NOT ALLOW ITS TERRITORY TO BE USED AS BASE FOR HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST THAILAND, IN ATTEMPT TO ELICIT SIMILAR RTG RESPONSE. DESPITE PRESS REPORTS TO CONTRARY, ASA AND AUNG THANT TOLD US THAI DID NOT RECIPROCATATE. ASA SAID BURMESE REALIZED THEY COULD NOT ASK RTG TO EXPEL U NU AND SUPPORTERS BUT HOPED RTG WOULD TRY TO CONTROL HIM, APPRECIATING DIFFICULTY OF POLICING LONG BORDER AND ACTIVITIES OF SHANS AND KARENS.

6. ASA SAI THAT IN ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE GOOD FAITH TO BURMESE, RTG MIGHT ASK USG AND JAPANESE TO BEAR DOWN ON THEIR PRIVATE CITIZENS IN CONTACT WITH U NU.

7. AUNG THANT SAID GUB DID NOT EXPECT THAT ONE VISIT WOULD RESULT IN CONCRETE STEPS BUT SPOKE OF IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE. RE THAI POINTS ON FISHING, SMUGGLING, AND BORDER HE SAID GUB " NEITHER ACCEPTED NOR REJECTED" RTG POSITION BUT WOULD WAIT AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPED ON U NU FRONT. IF U NU PROBLEM WERE SETTLED, ALL OTHER PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED EASILY.

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8. ASA STATED ( AND PRESS REPORTS HIGHLIGHT) THAT THAI-BURMA BORDER COMMITTEE WOULD MEET SOON TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS. ASA SAID FIRST MEETING WOULD BE AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL, WHICH WOULD OF COURSE INVOLVE PM THANOM. AUNG THANT DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY SPECIFIC AGREEMENT FOR FUTURE MEETINGS OF BORDER COMMITTEE OR AT OTHER LEVELS. HOWEVER HE DID NOT RULE THEM OUT.

9. IN PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 12 PRAPHAT DOWN PLAYED ISSUES DISCUSSED, STRESSING PROMOTION CLOSER FRIENDLY RELATIONS. ON SAME DAY DEPFONMIN CHARTCHAI TOLD PRESS THAT " DEFINITE ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FORBIDDING ANY-BODY TO GIVE AID IN ANY FORM TO U NU' S GROUP UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES". IN THIS AND OTHER REMARKS CHARTCHAI, MORE FORTHCOMING THAN OTHER RTG SPEAKERS, PERHAPS REFLECTING HIS LEADING ROLE IN ADVOCATING CLOSER TIES WITH BURMA.

10. RTG RECEPTION OF GUB FOREIGN MINISTER WAS WARM, AND GENEROUS ACCESS TO TOP LEVEL RTG RANKS CONTRIBUTED TO IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE. COMING ON HEELS OF CHARTCHAI' S SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO RANGOON IN FEBRUARY, STAGE SEEMS SET FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS IF RTG IS WILLING TO GRASP NETTLE OF NU AND FOLLOWERS. WHETHER RTG WILL REMAINS TO BE SEEN.  
UNGER

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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